

## ABSTRACT

A polarizer 25 in a light-incident optical system includes a polarized-light polarization axis 25t parallel to a predetermined direction. As a result of the passage of light through the polarizer 25, linearly polarized light Li including a vibration plane that includes the direction of the polarized-light polarization axis 25t is formed, and is incident upon a liquid crystal panel 10 at an incident angle  $\theta_i$ . On the other hand, a detecting optical system is set so as to detect specularly reflected light formed as a result of the reflection of the linearly polarized light Li that has impinged upon the liquid crystal panel 10 at the incident angle  $\theta_i$ . The specularly reflected light that exits from the liquid crystal panel 10 at an exiting angle  $\theta_o$  that is substantially equal to the incident angle  $\theta_i$  is incident upon a polarizer 26, and is eventually guided to a light detector 29. The polarizer 26 includes a polarized-light absorption axis 26a parallel to the polarized-light polarization axis 25t of the polarizer 25, with a light path serving as a reference.